



LANTERN

NUMBER 28 ——— WINTER 1979 ———

introduction

The problem with a magazine such as LANTERN is that it always seems to be in a state of 'flux' - never settling for long in one fixed state. This issue is no exception as it sees three changes. First of all it is the last issue in which 'SPELLTHORN' will appear as a separate entity - lack of material and 'feed-back' makes it impossible to continue with the present format. However, SPELLTHORN will not die altogether, it will continue in a shorter form as a 'NOTES & QUERIES' section in the next and subsequent editions of LANTERN. The present reference number system will continue into the new presentation. Secondly, this issue see the introduction of a UFO Newsletter - this will appear in every issue (providing there is material to fill it) and will deal briefly with all UFO reports received and investigated by the N.U.F.O.I.N. Finally, due to the ever-increasing cost of printing, we have from this issue curtailed the about of litho-work in an attempt to keep production costs down and to avoid (for the time being) passing on the increased postage rates to the subscribers.

This issue of LANTERN contains an assortment of 'odds and sods' which have been slowly accumulating in the files over the passed 12 months and which never quite seem to fit in anywhere - it also contains the first in a series of short articles by Mike Burgess dealing with local ley lines that he has discovered and walked.

It just remains for me to wish all readers a happy and prosperous new year, with apologies for the slightly late appearance of this issue.

Ivan Bunn

* * * * * BOOK REVIEW * * * * *

* 'EAST ANGLIA: Walking the ley lines and ancient tracks'? by Shirley Toulson*
* Wildwood House Ltd, 1979, £6.95; Hardcover. *

* A peculiar book this, the first in a projected series dealing with the
* leys and trackways of England, apparently from the point of view of a jou-
* rnalist just coming to grips with the 'earth mysteries' scene. Rather than
* follow the strict rules concerning ley line, Ms Toulson has instead relied
* on a more 'intuitive' exploration of various old roads (including Peddar's
* Way, the Icknield Way and the Harling Drove), and as she says in the int-
* roduction she has, "gone into the countryside and simply remained mindful
* of the old alignments; sometimes following the ley lines described by ot-
* her people in the years before the last war and seeing how far one can
* still follow them, and sometimes walking along paths and tracks known to
* have a history going back several centuries...and seeing if alignments
* could be projected from them through sites of any importance."

* Keeping well away from main roads as much as possible she has covered
* a sizeable chunk of East Anglia in her wanderings, and regretfully much *

Lantern is published by the Borderline Science Investigation Group; a non-profit making organisation devoted to the investigation of unexplained phenomena in East Anglia. Annual subscription (4 issues) is £100 inc. P & P (overseas rates on application). Edited by Ivan Bunn, & Michael Burgess, 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, NR32 4RZ —————

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of the book is taken up with simple instructions from one site to the next a practise that tends to become somewhat tedious when simply sitting down to read it rather than carrying it out in the field. There is much archaeology and history here, with a smattering of folklore, including one or two mysterious stones that I've never heard of. Ms. Toulson appears to accept the basic theory behind ley lines, although she is cautiously sceptical about the more exotic claims, including those of the terrestrial zodiacs. Two sections of her book are devoted to detailed walks around Nigel Pennick's Nuthampstead pattern, and my own Bury St. Edmunds zodiac; about which most people should know by now that I am totally sceptical. The actual leys that she does follow are lacking somewhat in accuracy, I regret; as are some of the statements made. For a start she perpetuates the hoary myth of Watkins' "vision" whilst rifing a horse over the hills, a myth exploded some time ago by David Adams. More importantly, she erroneously gives credit for discovering the 'Castle Acre Diamond' pattern of lines to Nigel Pennick, when in fact (as I'm sure Nigel would be the first to confirm) it was traced by BSIG member Ron Hill of Thetford and was featured in LANTERN IO.

In attempting to walk lengths of Dr. Rudge's 'Puddingstone Trail', Ms. Toulson has unfortunately fallen into the same trap as I did when first reading of it. Not all the points mentioned in his earlier list of track-markers are intended to be taken as being puddingstones, which leads one to search for a stone where there in fact isn't one (e.g. Hasset, Felsham or Gallow Hill). There are other errors of fact too in the book, but I cannot list them all here. The charcoal drawings by Oliver Caldecott, although evocative, I regret do not make up for the lack of photographs, and, to my mind, a more extensive bibliography and index would have been in order. All in all though, 'EAST ANGLIA', as a series of rambles thru our local landscape with an eye to the more mysterious and undeciphered antiquities, has its definite merits: but possible not, I have to say, at the rather exaggerated price of £6.95!

Michael W. Burgess.

SWARMS OF MISERY

So cried the 'Lowestoft Journal' on July 20th 1979 as the town, along with other parts of the country, was inundated with millions of green fly. The LJ report told of Lowestoftians and visitors alike muffled-up in makeshift handkerchief masks to combat the green menace - cyclists were having a bad time, but its an ill wind as amusement arcades and shops reported an increase in business as holiday-makers went inside to escape the clouds of aphids.

However, the (plague' of green nastys reached its peak the following week. The 'Lowestoft Journal' of July 27th reported deserted beaches as locals and holidaymakers alike stayed inside to avoid the greenfly. A local cyclist, blinded by the green plague, rode into a parked car and had to be treated for cuts and bruises - other cyclists were seen wrapped in black polythene dustbin liners in an attempt to ward off the brutes. Even pedestrians didn't fare to well and one man was so distracted by them that he walked into a lamp post. On Thursday July 26th the greenfly managed to put 250 people out of work when the entire fish batter department of Birds Eye Foods in the town was forced to close as it proved impossible to keep the swarms out of the factory. (Watch out for Summer '79 vintage cod in batter - Ed). That same afternoon the LJ reported that the greenfly were over an inch deep on their office roof. It seems that the little chaps had a predilection for the colour orange or yellow. A man who parked his yellow car in the town with its windows open returned to find the seats covered in a green mass, and a girl who put out various coloured buckets to see which attracted the most, ended up catching 15 lbs of greenfly in the orange pail. Dr. Alan Beaumont, a Lowestoft naturalist, believes that the aphids could have come from the continent (that's right, blame the poor foreigners again!); perhaps from the pine forests of Bavaria, where their vast numbers could have sent them migrating to England (page 9)

THE SECRET OF
'KATE'S PARLOUR'

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story appeared in one of the local newspaper not many years ago. Unfortunately the reference has been lost, but none the less it seemed worth repeating. If anyone can give the details of the newspaper and the date, please drop a line.

3.

Writing in Suffolk Records (The Journal of the Suffolk Genealogy Society);

Vol. 5, No. 4; Peter Christie reports:

"...In the 'Ipswich Journal' of January 15th, 1742 appeared an account of one Margaret Cutting of Wickham Market who lost her tongue due to a cancerous growth at the age of four. The reason for the news item was that, although tongueless, the girl could speak. The report was followed up by a Mr. Boddington, a merchant of Ipswich, who reported to the Royal Society in July 1742. His report stated that Margaret was 24 and that when her illness began, Mr. Scotchmore, a Saxmundham surgeon attempted to help her but pronounced the case incurable. The report adds; "One day when he was injecting some medicine into her mouth, her tongue dropp'd out; the girl immediately saying, to their great surprise, don't be frightened, mama, 'twill grow again". Other points of interest were that Margaret, "sung very prettily", and that "she distinguished all Tastes very nicely", and also, "she discourses as well as other persons do, but with a little tone through the nose".

A further report on Margaret came from 'T.Q.' of Harwich and had appeared in the 'Ipswich Journal' in March 1742, and another in the 'Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society' No. 484 (1749), in which we are told that Margaret had been taken to London by James Theobald to be further examined and questioned..."

ANOTHER 'ECHO FROM THE PAST'

I.A.W. BUNN

Whilst typing up the article, 'The Bloody Hand: A Fragment of a Tale' for LANTERN 26, it struck a note in my mind which prompted me to do a little research and what follows is what I came

up with. 'Boardley's Farm' at Oulton, mentioned in the article, is in fact 'Ivy Farm' (up until last year it had been owned by the Boardley family for a long time) and was farmed for the last Forty years or so by Mr. A.G. Mobbs, a well known Oulton character, who lived in nearby Laurel Farm where is died in his 92nd year 12 months ago. I have in my possession the manuscript copy of an unpublished book written by Mr. Mobbs and in it he makes reference to Ivy Farm when it was owned by his uncle, Charles Mobbs; over 60 years ago. The relevant passage reads:

"...the previous occupant of the farm, Goldspink by name, hanged himself in the corner of the barn, in fact, a piece of rope hung there for some time after. Some of the younger fry, aware of what happened, each night decided to re-enact the crime by rigging up a corpse and hanging it from a beam..."

This took place at the turn of the century and according to Mr. Mobbs the 'younger fry' were able to convince at least one person that the barn was haunted by 'Old Goldspink's ghost'. So it seems that at least one fragment of the 'Bloody Hand' tale has some factual basis. Then, a little while later, I was browsing through a small privately published booklet in Lowestoft Library, being the auto-biography of one George Bickers of Oulton who died there in 1889, when I came across the following:

"...An inquest was held on Saturday, the 6th day of June, 1874, before F.B. Marriott Esq., at the late residence of Charles Goldsmith, who had hanged himself in his barn the preceeding day."

Goldspink....Goldsmith?...This seemed to close to be wrong and so I checked the Lowestoft Journal for 1874 and in the issue dated June 13th, I came across the following headline:

'SUICIDE' BY FARMER AT OULTON'

followed by a lengthy report of how Charles Goldsmith, aged 72, had hanged



~ IVY FARM - OULTON ~

Goldsmith hanged himself in the large barn, the overgrown orchard is on the left and the ruins of the farmhouse are just out of the picture on the left ~

himself from a beam in his barn. William Long, a witness at the inquest gave evidence of what happened shortly before 1pm on June 5th, 1874. He said:

"...I ran down the road to the barn and cut him down. He was hanging by a rope fixed to one of the joists near the top of the barn with one foot slightly resting on the ladder. I cut him down directly. I took the rope from round his neck but he was quite dead and cold..."

From the inquest it transpired that Goldsmith had been in a 'melancholy way' for some time, and it was supposed that his having to relinquish the tenancy of Ivy Farm that coming Michaelmas had contributed to his melancholic state. The newspaper report also added that the incident caused 'no little excitement' in Oulton at the time. From the 19th century census returns for Oulton I was able to ascertain that Charles Goldsmith was the tenant and occupant of Ivy Farm;

Despite the fact that he committed suicide, Charles Goldsmith was buried in the churchyard of St. Michaels at Oulton. The inscription on his gravestone reads:

'IN MEMORY OF CHARLES GOLDSMITH, BELOVED
HUSBAND OF MARTHA GOLDSMITH, WHO DIED
JUNE 5TH, 1874, AGED 32 YEARS.

Subsequent research (which I won't detail here) has revealed all sorts of things about Charles Goldsmith and his life at Oulton; including the fact that Martha was his second wife and only 26 years old at the time of his death!

This fragment of a tale, to my mind, illustrates perfectly how in a relatively short period of time a down to earth incident can be elevated from the realm of fact to one of legend. It started with the actual event that caused 'no little excitement' at the time. 20 years later the event is still remembered and even re-encanted by the local boys and rumours of a 'ghost' are now abroad. 40 or 50 years later the details of the event are becoming garbled - even those who lived in Oulton not long after the incident happened are getting the facts confused - witness the change of name from Goldsmith to Goldspink in Mr. Mobbs' account. Finally, today the event and even the location of the place where it took place are becoming hazy memories. The current story is that Goldsmith hanged himself in the garden and that the trees there will bear no fruit. A small garden with fruit tree stands (or rather stood) between the west end of the farmhouse and the barn in which the suicide took place, and a small door led from this garden into the barn where Charles Goldsmith decided to end it all. Unfortunately I can't discover anything about the origins of the 'Bloody hand' still, you can't win 'em all.....!

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JOY PEACH, of 31 North View, Winchester is compiling an anthology of true stories of the supernatural and would be very pleased to hear from LANTERN readers who have experienced hauntings, clairvoyance, out-of-the-body experiences, de ja vu, poltergeist activity - in fact anything inexplicable as long as it's true. JOY would appreciate it if would-be correspondents could include a stamped addressed envelope with their letters.

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TALES OF OLD WITCHCRAFT IN SUFFOLK.

In the 17th century Ipswich was enchanted by the doings of her witch, known as 'Mother Lakeland'.

Morley Adams relates the confession eventually forced from the old lady which is entitled:

"THE CONFESSION OF MATHER LAKELAND OF IPSWICH WHO WAS
ARRAIGNED AND CONDEMNED FOR A WITCH, AND SUFFERED
DEATH BY BURNING, AT IPSWICH, IN SUFFOLK, ON TUESDAY
THE 9th SEPTEMBER 1645"

"The said Mother Lakeland hath been a Professor of Religion, a constant hearer of the Word for these many years, and yet a Witch (as she has confessed) for the space of near twenty years. The Devil came to her first, between sleeping and waking, and spake to her in a hollow voice, telling her that if she would serve him, she would want nothing. After often solicitation, she consented to him; then he stroke his claw (as she confessed) into her hands and with her blood wrote the covenants. (Now the subtilty of Satan is to be observed, in that he did not press her to deny God and Christ, as he useth to do others; because she was a professor, and might have lost all his hold by pressing her too far). Then he furnished her with three imps, two little dogs, and a mole (as she confessed) which she employed in her services. Her husband she bewitched (as she confessed) whereby he lay in great misery for a time, and at last dyed. Then she sent one of her dogs to Mr. Lawrence in Ipswich, to torment him and take away his life; she sent one of them also to his child, to torment it, and take away the life of it, which was done upon them both; and all this (as she confessed) was because he asked her for twelve shillings that she owed him, and for no other cause.

She further confessed, that she sent her mole to a maid of one Mrs. Jennings in Ipswich, to torment her and take away her life, which was done accordingly, and this for no other cause but for that the said maid would not lend her a needle that she desired to borrow of her, and was earnest with her for a shilling which she owed the said maid.

Then, she further confessed, she sent one of her imps to one Mr. Beale, in Ipswich, who had formerly been a suitor to her grandchild; and because he would not have her, she sent and burnt a new ship, that had never been at sea, that he was to go master of; and sent also to torment him and take away his life; but he is yet living, but in very great misery, and it is vainly conceived by the doctors and Chirurgeons that have him in hand that he consumes and rots, and that half of his body is rotten upon him as he is living.

Severall other things she did for all which she was by Law condemned to die, and in particular to be burnt to death, because she was the death of her husband (as she confessed) which death she suffered accordingly.

But since her death, there is one thing that is very remarkable, and to be taken notice of: That upon the very day that she was burned, a bunch of flesh, something after the form of a dog, that grew upon the thigh of the said Mr. Beale, ever since she sent her imp to him, being very hard, but could never be made to break by all the means that could be used, break of itself without any means using. And another sore that at the same time she sent her imp to him rose upon the side of his belly, in the form of a fistula, which ran and could not be braked for all the means that could be used, presently also began to heale, and there is great hopes that he will suddenly recover again, for his sores heale apace, and he doth recover his strength. He was in this misery for the space of a yeare and a halfe, and was forced to go with his head and knees together, his misery was so great".

Richard A. Haxell

o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o THE DAY THE SKY TURNED PINK o o o o o o o o o o o o

The evening sky turned bright pink then mauve deepening into purple over a large area of the SE and East Anglia yesterday - "a rare and sensational light" as one weather expert described it. The Weather Centre bombarded by inquiries, explained: "It was due to an optical effect more common in northern latitudes and caused by combined effects of atmospheric scattering and diffusion together with the low angle of elevation of the sun." (DT 28/II/79.

BACK NUMBERS

The following back numbers of LANTERN are still available: 25 - 26 - 27.

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+ Single copies are 28p each. +

+ 2 copies for 48p. 3 copies for 50p. +

+ All prices include postage etc. +

+ Available from 3 Dunwich Way, Culton +

+ Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk. NR32 4RZ. +

THE NEXT EDITION OF 'LANTERN' WILL
BE AVAILABLE IN MARCH 1980.
BE SURE OF YOUR COPY AND TAKE OUT
A SUBSCRIPTION NOW. MATERIAL FOR
INCLUSION IN LANTERN IS ALWAYS WEL
COME. SEND IT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

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THE FOLLOWING ARE ALL GLEANED FROM THE PAGES OF THE EAST ANGLIAN MAGAZINE:
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR... like Mrs Blundell I can assure read

like Mrs Blundell I can assure readers that it was not a figment of the imagination.

My friends and I were stack-making when a shower descended unawares, accompanied - much to our surprise - by a shower of tiny frogs. We called them Freshers. Myriads of them swarmed over the top of the unfinished haystack.

Incidentally, our visitor's disappearance was even more mysterious. I have never heard of such a fantastic shower since. I can offer no explanation. There must be an answer to the riddle, for sure; and I beg some other more discerning reader to supply it."

C.E. Riches, School Lane, Heckingham,
near Norwich.

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"My father was out cycling one dark night when he felt what he at first thought were large drops of rain hitting his face. Not being satisfied as to the real nature of this shower, he dismounted and examined the ground with the aid of his cycle lamp and found it covered with tiny frogs. The district

was undoubtedly Suffolk and the time about 60 years ago."

B.G.Palmer, 33 Duke Road, Barking-side, Ilford.

April 1958, p.310:

"The letter in the January issue took me bak to something I overheard in a conversation 25 years ago. An old farm hand was telling a group of workers that at West Row and Isleham on the Cambridge-Suffolk Border, when he was a young man a water spout was seen over the River Lark.

Some hours afterwards there was a heavy thunderstorm and it rained frogs. They could be seen everywhere after the storm. Until reading Mrs. Blundell's letter I always thought it was just a yarn. The old Farm - hand said the frogs were drawn-up from the river in the water spout."

H.Bye, Redmere, Burnt Fen, Ely.

"Is not the answer that a water spout arose from a pond? They are similar to edible frogs used by the french, where only the hind legs are used, being cut off at the loins and fried in oil, Very delicious they are too."

H.W.Halls, 104 Bixley Road, Ipswich.

A POSTSCRIPT

Only a short time after the publication of LANTERN 26, in which appeared the first part of the 'Old Blunderhazard of Barsham' story, Holy Trinity Church at Barsham was gutted by fire. The church, with its Saxon/Norman round tower and medieval ceiling, was the last resting place members of the Blennerhassett family, including Thomas, whose name is associated with the Blunderhazard legend. The fire started when sparks from a fire fell on the roof.

LOCAL LEY LINES

by
M.W.BURGESS

This is the first in a series of short articles describing some of the more local ley alignments that I personally have traced and walked. If other readers have similar experience of ley-hunting in Norfolk and Suffolk, we'd be pleased to hear from them.

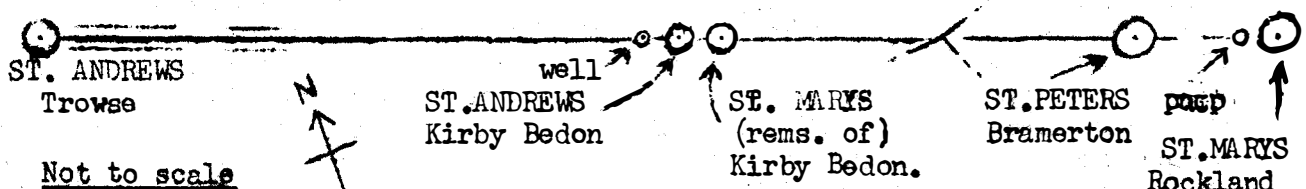
(NOTE): Bearing of alignments and orientation of churches are all expressed in degrees and minutes east of magnetic north. Grid references refer to the centre of the site described; except in the case of large features such as camps, etc., where the reference given is to the point at which the alignment strikes or cuts the site.

No.1 ROCKLAND ST.MARY TO TROWSE NEWTON, NORFOLK


This alignment is situated immediately to the south-east of Norwich, being 4.5 miles in length and consisting of 5 points, plus confirmatory sites. It runs from the south-east to the north-west at a bearing of 120° 42'.

1): ST.MARYS CHURCH, Rockland St.Mary (TG312040); orientation 86°: This 14th century church has a square tower, and the scant remains of an earlier ST.MARGARETS CHURCH in the churchyard. The ley originates at the angle between two buttresses on the north-west side, precisely where an old dis-used pump stands. It grazes the corner of a large embanked three-ways in the village before striking:

2): ST.PETERS CHURCH, Bramerton (TG296047); orientation 89°: The ley passes at an angle through the modern lych-gate, then diagonally through the nave and tower (square) of this 13th century building. From this site the ley passes through a wide three-ways on the parish boundary, from which can be



3): ST. MARYS CHURCH, Kirby Bedon (TG279054) now in ruins with only the jagged stump of the saxon round tower visible. Little more than the width of the road away lies:



KIRBY BEDON
CHURCH

local leys and the churchyards of both are haunted, according to the East Anglian Handbook, 1885 by the apparition "...of a very tall woman in white, mounted on a white horse, who rides slowly first around one churchyard and then the other..." No legend seems to exist to account for this ghostly figure. The ley grazes the southern side of the church nave, passes through the tower and a shallow spring-well in the churchyard; then on to the gateway of Trowse Hospital and a right-angle bend in the parish boundary, where the first section of



5): ST.ANDREWS CHURCH, Trowse Newton (TG246068); orientation 103° : The ley terminates in the centre of the square tower of this 13th century church.

I make no claims for the 'mystical significance' of this, or any other alignment; it merely exists. It was found firstly on the OS I:50,000 map, then confirmed on the OS I:25,000 map, and then by fieldwork.

SWARMS OF MISERY (continued); However, just in case we are feeling complacent now that the greenfly have gone, Dr. Beaumont says that the 1979 could be the start of a worse one. "These aphids will probably lay eggs which will lie dormant over the winter and if they survive will hatch out, causing a plague next year" he said. Truly 1979 will go down in Lowestoft as the year of the Greenfly, providing of course Dr. Beaumont's prophesy doesn't come true that is!

+ + + + + GIRL STRUCK BY LIGHTNING + + + + +
 A 16 year-old girl was struck by lightning yesterday as she was walking on Lowestoft's North Beach during a violent thunderstorm. Alison Margaret Jones of 3 Moseley Wood Close Close, Leeds, was taken to Lowestoft Hospital where she was later said to be "comfortable". She was later transferred to West Norwich Hospital....Her parents...said yesterday..."There was a third big flash of lightning and then we lost view of Alison. Someone came running towards us saying there was a young lady lying on the beach," Alison was wearing an anorak with a metal zip, and a metal necklace. The top of her anorak sleeve had been burned away, and she had burns on her arm and neck.
 Mr. Jones said his daughter was very dazed and in a state of shock. The same storm brought torrential rain to the area and some Lowestoft streets were awash as drains were unable to cope with the rush of water. In London Road North a manhole cover was blown off and hundreds of gallons of water bubbled up in a miniature fountain + 'Lowestoft Journal' 4/8/1978.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

ZETETIC SCHOLAR: Published twice yearly. An independent Scientific review of claims of Anomalies and the paranormal. \$15.00 per year.

Details from the Editor, Marcello Truzzi, Department of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197, U.S.A.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW: Published quarterly. The official organ of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society. Annual sub £1.10 from the Editor, Robert Morrell, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3GB.

MAGONIA: (Formerly MUFOB) From the Autumn 1979 issue, MUFOB has changed its name but not its layout or its open-minded approach to UFO research. Published quarterly; 4 issue sub £1.75 from the Editor, John Rimmer (to whom cheques/POs should be made payable) at the new address of 64 Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4JW.

THE CAULDRON: Quarterly publication being the pagan journal of the old religion. Single issue 25p - 4 issue sub £1.00 (blank POs please - no cheques) to The Cauldron, BCM BOX 1633, London WC1V 6XX.

AWARENESS: The quarterly journal of Contact(UK). Packed full of UFO news and reports - investigations and sightings. Full details from Mr. J.B Delair, 19 Cumnor Road, Boar's Hill, near Oxford, Oxon.

JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY: The quarterly magazine of the Institute of Geomantic Research. Single issues 60p each; or full annual membership to the Institute £3.00 which entitles member to 4 issues of J.O.G. plus all IGR Occasional Papers produced during the currency of the subscription. Full details from Nigel Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambs CB3 8SD.

ALBION: "A magazine of Pagan enquiry". Published quarterly by Fenris-Wolf publications and produced by the IGR and the Society for promoting Pagan Knowledge. 4 issue subscription is £2.00 from the I.G.R. address or from PO Box 146, Finchfield, Braintree, Essex, CM7 4UB.

ANCIENT SKILL AND WISDOM REVIEW: Published quarterly. Book and magazine reviews on all aspects of 'earth mysteries': 4 issue sub is £2.00 from 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, County Durham.

SANGEAL: published quarterly. A magazine of ancient British crafts and mysteries. 4 issue subscription £2.50 from BM Sangreal, London WC1V 6XX - edited by S. and G. Stumatz Dearn.

SKYWATCH: An informal publication devoted to UFOs and related subjects. Published bi-monthly by the Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team. Edited by D. Rees. Full details from 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE.

EARTHLINK: Published quarterly - UFOs and related subjects. As from Spring 1979, this mag seems to have broken its links with the ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP (which seems to be more or less defunct) and all the resources of the Group seem to be channeled now into the magazine. UK sub (4 issues) is £2.50 from D.J.Goring (Jr), 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, RM9 5JR, Essex.

THE LEY HUNTER: Published quarterly. THE Magazine of earth mysteries and related subjects. Annual sub (4 issues) is £3.00. Edited by Paul Devereux. Full details from PO Box 152, London, N10 1EF.

FORTEAN TIMES: A quarterly journal of news, notes, reviews and references on current and historical strange phenomena, related subjects and philosophies. Edited by R.J.M. Rickard, annual sub (UK) is £3.00 from Dept S. c/o DTWAGE, 9 - 12 St. Annes Court, London W.1.

ADVERTISEMENT: FLYING SAUCERS, meetings, skywatches, newsletter, photos; see to BRITISH UFO SOCIETY, 47 Belsize Square, London NW3.
WARMINSTER, UFO and Ley centre. Weekend & Holiday accommodation available to UFO researchers, skywatchers, Ley hunters and other folk interested in NEW Age subjects; see for details to UFO SERVICES, 47 Belsize Square, London NW3.

Among the many reports received by the Network during the past couple of months comes one of the variety which involve possible physical traces. The report originates from New Buckenham in Norfolk, and involved the sighting of a large red ball low in the sky at just after midnight late in September.

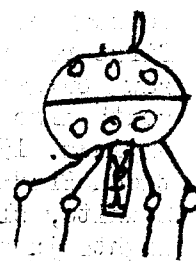
The witness had just got into bed when she noticed bright lights on the closed curtains. Wondering what it was causing the lights, she quickly went to the window and drew back the curtains. On looking out of the window, the witness saw that the bright lights had gone but she could see a bright red ball in the sky some distance away. After watching it for about a minute, the light extinguished and was not seen again.

A few days later some dead grass was found outside her front garden. The patch of dead grass was in the shape of an arc, but did not extend to the grass on the other side of the road. It was assumed by the witness that the grass dying was caused by the object coming down in front of the bungalow when she initially saw the lights on the curtains.

Samples of the dead grass are to be analysed by BUFORA, and the results to be passed on at a later date. There have been several other sightings in the area during the past year, many of them being more than the usual LITS.

Keith Williamson.

'IN
THE
AIR'



+++++
+ From time to time 'mystery flares' are seen off the coast of East Anglia: +
+ the reports of these 'flares' usually lead to the mobilisation of the res- +
+ cue services, who despite many hours of searching, can find no trace of +
+ their source. Details of some of these 'flares' have appeared in LANTERN in +
+ the past (see issues 16 & 24). Whilst all these earlier flares have been +
+ seen over the sea, it now seems that they are being seen inland over the +
+ Norfolk Broads - The following report comes from the Eastern Daily Press of +
+ November 20, 1979: +

+ "Three distress flares seen over Rockland Broad set off a search by a +
+ helicopter and police last night. Norfolk police said a wildfowler was +
+ possibly in trouble, but they had no report of a missing person. Mr. +
+ Ron Dye, warden of the broad, saw on red flare at 5.30 pm and 5 min- +
+ utes later saw two more. A coach driver and a man at Brundall also saw +
+ the flares. Mr. Dye alerted Gorleston Police who contacted Yarmouth +
+ Coastguard. A Sea King rescue helicopter from RAF Coltishall, piloted +
+ by Flt. Lt. Gerry Hermer, was scrambled but after nearly 3 hours found +
+ nothing, and it was called off. Insp. David Hunt from Acle police and +
+ other officers searched the Broad and the nearby river Yare by boat. It +
+ was thought the flares came from the Strumpshaw side of the river. A +
+ police spokesman said inquiries this morning will try to trace the sou- +
+ rce of the flares - and if needed, the helicopter will go out again." +

+ This report was followed up by a postscript in the EDP the next day: +

+ "The mystery of the three distress flares sighted over Rockland Broad +
+ on Monday night remained unsolved yesterday after searches of the area +
+ by police and a helicopter had drawn a blank. Police from Loddon tou- +
+ red the Broad in a river inspectors launch yesterday morning but found +
+ nothing, and an underwater rescue team in an inflatable dinghy had no +
+ success when they searched the water edges." +

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+ As well as the 'flares' mentioned above, November 1979 brought with it +
+ an incredible spate of reports of lights seen in the sky over the Lowestoft/ +
+ Yarmouth area. These reports seem to have reached their peak in the week com- +
+ mencing November 12th. The first report was of a myriad of rapidly flashing +
+ white lights seen over the sea off Lowestoft at 4.50pm. Upon enquiry it was

later discovered that the USAF flying from Bentwaters air base in Suffolk were flying their new AIO tank destroyer aircraft (more of which in a moment) in the area at this time. It seems almost certain that what was seen on November 1st were 2 AIOs flying in close formation.

The bulk of sightings reported in November were received on the night of Tuesday the 13th. The activity seems to have commenced at around 7pm and the first report received was at 7.15pm when a 26 year old housewife and 3 children saw pulsating lights over the town. At the same time a 16 year old Gorleston youth also reported seeing 2 flashing white lights accompanied by the sound of engines. 15 minutes later a Gorleston police constable, travelling in a car between Bradwell and St. Olaves (a mile or so S.W. of Gorleston) reported seeing 2 white, slow moving lights. Later, at approx 9.0pm, the same PC saw three white lights in a row - slow moving and accompanied by engine noise over Fritton. He was later informed that 5 helicopters had been in the vicinity at that time and he is now certain that what he observed was 3 of them in line abreast.

8.10pm: - 2 Great Yarmouth Police Constables in the centre of the town see five red lights and a larger white light slowly circle the town. They did 5 circuits of the town and after each one light left the formation and descended out of sight below the horizon in the N.W. No sound was heard and both PC's said that the lights did not look like normal aircraft lights.

Between the hours of 7.30pm and 8.30pm two Great Yarmouth men observed a white flashing light together with red lights (which they assumed to be part of the same craft) fly slow and low overhead accompanied by a low, droning noise. A few minutes later 2 flashing white lights were seen - followed shortly after by 3 more lights in a 'vee' formation. Witnesses report seeing many more lights - including flashing white, red and orange. A string of lights of the latter colour were appeared to land on the marshes at Acle, a mile or so due west of Gt. Yarmouth. However, when later questioned about the objects, one of the witnesses said that during the hour long period of observation he saw so many different lights it was difficult for him to recall exactly what he had seen. The second witness took a cine film of some of the lights but to date we have not heard if it was successful.

Three nights later many white flashing lights were seen over the Lowestoft area (a few miles south of Yarmouth). Without doubt these were aircraft flying in low from the west of the town and climbing as they reached it. A 'phone call at the time to the operations room at U.S.A.F Bentwaters confirmed that they had 20 AIO's flying in the area (plus other aircraft) which were doing low-level training flights over the marshes to the west of the town.

Before moving onto other reports, a word or two about the sighting on November 13th. A Correspondent living at Rollesby near Gt. Yarmouth has informed us that at about 8.10pm he saw a formation of AIO's flying south over Rollesby and he is sure that it was these that led to the UFO reports that night. We are now attempting to confirm with Bentwaters exactly what aircraft they had in the Gt. Yarmouth area on November 13th.

So, a word of warning to UFO investigators - watch out for these American Republic AIO Fairchilds if you have US bases in your area. These aircraft are new in the UK and are very odd in more ways than one. Firstly they have a very unconventional configuration. They are very slow moving and the most noticeable thing about them is their very quiet jet engines. Above all, it is their lights which might (and no doubt have) give rise to UFO reports. Although not switched on all the time, they carry 4 very bright, blue/white strobe lights (one on each wing tip, one on the nose and another on the tail). When on, these lights accompanied by the normal a/c lights carried by the AIOs, present a spectacular sight on one lone aircraft. When a number of AIOs are flying together the resulting effect is truly amazing - especially at a distance. To describe the sight as a 'flying Christmas tree' would be an understatement!! YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED. These notes were compiled by your editor for the NORFOLK UFO INVESTIGATION NETWORK from reports supplied by Mrs Dot Street, NUFOIN investigator for the Lowestoft area. Keith Williamson, a founder member of NUFOIN has resigned from the network (but not from BSIG) due to personal reasons. It was thanks to Keith's hard-work that the Network was launched and has worked so well.

SPELLTHORN

This is to be the last issue of 'SpellThorn', so I'd like to thank those people who have sent in oddments of information etc over the past months. From 'Lantern' 29 though, a 'Notes & Queries' section will begin to crop up in various parts of the magazine, and the numbering system started in 'SpellThorn' will continue in sequence. Thanks again.

Slip-up: I neglected in the last issue to state where the quotation in No.48 came from. Suffice to say that the offending passage is from the 'Merlinus Anglicus Junior' by William Lilly(1644.)

No.49...FORTEANA*****The following two items are not really descriptions of the phenomena, but rather notices of the pamphlets written about them, that I have not as yet seen. Hopefully the serious Fortean student may be able to dig them up.

"Heavenly Signs seen at Norwich in 1591 - An extraordinary appearance of certain signs in the heavens(suns,circles,St.Andrew's crosses etc.) is recorded as having taken place on April 23rd(St.George's Day)at Norwich. Simultaneously these signs are said to have appeared at Paris. A learned interpretation of these phenomena was put forward in a small 8vo publication dating from Rome in the same year by one Alphonso Ciacone, under the title 'De Signis Sanctissimae Crucis quae diversis olim orbus regionibus,et nuper hoc anno 1591,in Gallia et Anglia divinitus ostensa sunt et eorum explicatione.' Copper-plates of the 'signs' as seen from Norwich and Paris, from drawings by Joseph Creswell the Jesuit, based upon an exact description, are supplied by one who is said to have seen the sight at Norwich."

"Wonderfull and straunge newes, which happened in the countye of Suffolke and Essex the first of February...where it rayned wheat, for the space of VI or VII miles compass." Written by William Averell, student in divinitie;1583. (British Library,STC 982.5.)

No.50...ROADSIDE BURIAL*****Allan Jobson, in 'In Suffolk Borders'(1967), p.105-6, talks of a 'ghost room' in the vicarage at Butley that was always kept sealed during the 19th century, and that it seemed to be haunted by "the spirit of Robert Brommer,prior of Butley,who in 1508 was heavily in debt to Henry VII who had granted him the priory of the Virgin Mary at Snape." Jobson then goes on to quote an old record stating that " 'Upon the 25th day of May in 1509,the said prior killed himself in Ipswich.He was buried two yards outside Butley church,in the west part of the churchyard.The following year,in June,John Tostington,with Papal authority,removed the body and buried it near the north door.On September 26th,about 7 am, the body was exhumed and buried again as a suicide by lay hands outside the sanctuazzy,namely in the nearest road leading from the church at Butley to the lane called Hausen Street,where there are four cross-roads.' "

No.51...HOLY WELLS*****John Chambers' 'General History of the County of Norfolk',Vol.1,pages 76 and 125,mentions two rather interesting Norfolk wells: "To the west of (Wereham) church is St.Margaret's Well,at which, in the times of popery,the people diverted themselves on that saint's day with cakes and ale,music and dancing; alms and offerings were brought, and vows made: all this was called Well Worship."

"...from this place (Fersfield church) processions were usually made to a well or spring, about 60 yards from the north gate of the churchyard, at the foot of a hill,which is still called Tann's well,a corruption of

St. Anne's well."

No. 52...HIDDEN TREASURE****From the report of the 36th annual meeting of the British Archaeological Association, at Great Yarmouth in 1879, p.84:

"Most of all he (the local vicar) would be glad to know where to find that crock of gold, whose value was not less than 30 or 40,000 pounds, to be laid out in the completion of the church (St. Nicholas); and of all of which he would like to have the fingering."

From the 'East Anglian Magazine', Vol. 19, p.287: "The fact that the King's commissioners at the dissolution found property valued only at £40 when they came to make their inventory has given rise to the legend that the (Leiston) abbey plate is buried somewhere in the cloister garth or in the field which was once the pomatorium, south of the refectory."

No. 53...SECRET TUNNELS****There is reputed to be an underground passage, from the church, to the base of one of the 15th century crosses on the Green (or, some say, to Church Farm), but no trace of this has ever been found. From 'A History of Coston, Norfolk' by John S. Barnes; Part 1 (1974), p.5.

The 'E.A. Magazine', Vol. 6, p.184, mentions the tradition of a secret tunnel from Terrington St. Clement church in Norfolk's marshland to the haunted Lovell's Hall, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the south-west.

"There used to be a hall (at Bawburgh), built in 1634, but this was pulled down a few years ago. There was supposed to be a tunnel leading from that hall to a farmhouse, (Church Farm) the other side of the river, which latter used to be the residence of priests." From 'E.A. Folklore and other tales' by W.H. Barrett and R.P. Garrod (1976), p.91.

No. 54...ROADSIDE BURIAL****Shirley Toulson, p.159 (see Book Review, this issue) mentions a meeting of parish boundaries between Walsham le Willows and Westhorpe, at TM026696, where "This turning marks the site of a cross-roads, where a gypsy is said to be buried beneath an oak tree."

No. 55...FORTEANA****'Trans. Suff. Nat. Hist. Soc.', Vol. 5, p.153-4: "it was just 4.55pm on 29 Feb. last, an hour before sunset, when my husband and I first noticed at Chediston that the sun appeared to be two suns, with the trace of a third to the south...The main mock one was a glorius whorl of brilliant white light...and to the inner side of each, an almost vertical piece of rainbow hung...A second apparition was seen in Halesworth at 9.30am on 7 March. This time the encircled sun was in the SE, and the single mock sun an anthelion in the north." Winifred Hocken, 3. August, 1944.

'Trans. Suff. Nat. Hist. Soc.', Vol. 9 (1954-6), p.368: "Miss Abbey of Southwold writes: 'Just after 5pm on Feb. 23rd, there were two suns, very clear and distinct and bright-shining one above the other and apparently touching. A thin wisp of cloud lay across the middle, where they seemed to touch. I watched this strange sight from two westward-looking rooms. It lasted for several minutes from the time I first saw it.'"

No. 56...CASTLE****'E. Anglian, or Notes & Queries', Vol. 8 (1899-1900), p.237: "Gough's 'Topography', ii, p.11, mentions a SW view of Norwich Castle by Mehaux, beneath which was inscribed - 'This castle was built by Julius Caesar, and the crack is supposed to have happened at the Crucifixion...' What crack? "

No. 57...HIDDEN TREASURE****John Sapwell, in his 'History of Aylsham' (1960), p.141, tells of a tradition that the golden wheel of a chariot lies buried in what was 'the heater', a small triangular piece of land at the junction of the Cawston road and the lane to Frog's Hall.

Michael W. Burgess.

***** END OF 'SPELLTHORN'. *****